

To: acrowther@utah.gov[acrowther@utah.gov]
From: Bahrman, Sarah
Sent: Sun 8/9/2015 7:47:03 PM
Subject: FW: UTAH EMAIL LIST: Communication regarding San Juan River mine water pulse

Hi Angelia –

Here's the sampling plan info I have from UDEQ. As I mentioned, I've heard from UDEQ's Drinking Water Dept that Mexican Hat is ok right now, and will be collecting their own samples. The water master over there has been in touch with DEQ to coordinate.

Please don't hesitate to call if you get more info or have questions.

Thanks

Sarah E. Bahrman | Acting Director, Water Program | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 8

(p) 303.312.6243 | (c) 303.903.8515 | (f) 877.876.9101

From: Erica Gaddis [mailto:egaddis@utah.gov]
Sent: Sunday, August 09, 2015 12:35 PM
To: Bahrman, Sarah; danielf2368@yahoo.com; nnepawq@frontiernet.net
Cc: Donald Hoffheins; Macauley; Walter Baker; llamb@utah.gov; Kim Shelley; Doug Wong; David Ariotti; Craig Dietrich; Ken Bousfield; Kim Dyches; Rachael Cassady; rmeyer@sanjuancounty.org; Sam LeFevre
Subject: Re: UTAH EMAIL LIST: Communication regarding San Juan River mine water pulse

Greetings,

I've added Danny Fleming to the email list and Steven Austin from Navajo Nation.

Here is an update from UDWQ.

* We have a crew at the stateline with a pH meter waiting for the plume. We estimate that the plume will arrive between 3:00pm and midnight tonight (assuming a travel time from Kirtland of

1.4 of 3 mph).

* We plan to take metals samples and pH readings at the state line at 12:00, 3:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 9:00 pm today.

* We will transport these samples to SLC early tomorrow for analysis either at a private lab or our state lab and expect to have data to report by Tuesday.

* We have sondes in the river measuring continuous pH at Montezuma, Sand Island, and Mexican Hat (map attached). We were not able to deploy a continuous instrument at the stateline site.

* Beginning tomorrow we will collect water column samples at all four sites once in the morning and again in the afternoon. We will continue this sampling regime until Friday unless there is reason to cut it short or go longer.

* Two of our samplers are at Shiprock talking with USGS now. They report that the leading edge is either 2 or 15 miles downstream of Shiprock. pH readings at Shiprock are 8.09. It appears that the plume is buffered and we don't expect to see a pH signal when it enters Utah. Depending on which report is correct and the travel rate, we expect it arrive at the border as early as 3:00 pm but more likely not until early tomorrow morning.

* We think it is unlikely that they will be able to visually see the plume when it arrives. The river is very turbid due to rains and our crew does not think they will be able to visually see the plume when it arrives. They describe the river now as red, turbid, and consistency of a smoothie.

Erica

On Sun, Aug 9, 2015 at 12:00 PM, Bahrman, Sarah <Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Ying Ying and Don –

Thanks for sharing the info you have from the field. Our EPA Region 9 office has been working with the Navajo systems. I will pass this info on to them and let you know any info I hear back on the status of the Halchita system. As for the leading edge, the EPA airplane was up this morning and could not identify a leading edge of the plume. They will do another flyover this afternoon.

-Sarah

Sarah E. Bahrman | Acting Director, Water Program | U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency - Region 8

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From: Donald Hoffheins [mailto:dhoffhei@blm.gov]

Sent: Sunday, August 09, 2015 11:29 AM

To: Macauley

Cc: Erica Gaddis; Walter Baker; llamb@utah.gov; Kim Shelley; Doug Wong; David Ariotti; Craig Dietrich; Ken Bousfield; Kim Dyches; Rachael Cassady; rmeyer@sanjuancounty.org; Bahrman, Sarah; Sam LeFevre; Daniel Fleming

Subject: Re: UTAH EMAIL LIST: Communication regarding San Juan River mine water pulse

Good morning all, yesterday I offered a water trailer beginning Monday if needed for the communities along the San Juan river. This morning I received a call from commissioner Benally accepting that. She says that the town of Hachita is having water line issues so they are actually limited on water anyway, so they will need assistance as soon as we can get it to them. I'm driving to the state line and Montezuma creek now because we have unconfirmed reports that the spill waste has traveled that far. I will check in later.

Sent from Don Hoffheins' iPhone

Personal Phone/Ex. 6

On Aug 9, 2015, at 11:13 AM, Macauley <ymacauley@utah.gov> wrote:

Some updates from Mexican Hat in Utah -

Just finished talking to Danny Fleming, the water master of Mexican Hat water system. He saw the Fox News 13 reporting about Aneth and Montezuma Ck shutting down their DW systems. Danny is wondering about the status the Halchita water system on Navajo Nation land directly across the river from Mexican Hat. Halchita has a surface water intake directly from the San Juan River. Danny anticipates to provide water hauling assistance to Halchita residents if requested. (Is EPA working with Halchita water system? Does anyone know what Halchita will do or is doing with its DW intake from the river?)

Danny thinks Mexican Hat's wells may be okay since they have several hundred feet of ground filtration between San Juan river and the wells, plus the well water goes through a membrane treatment plant before entering the distribution system.

Danny has been talking to Doug Wong of DWQ on coordinating the sampling. Danny has his own Hach kit and can do some monitoring. Danny plans to monitor the metals of the wells. I recommended that, in addition to monitoring metals, Danny also continue to monitor and compare the pH and conductivity of the wells and the nearby river water, especially comparing to the historical well data.

P.S. It may be a good idea to add Danny Fleming (danielf2368@yahoo.com) to the Utah email list.

Ying-Ying

On Aug 7, 2015, at 2:00 PM, Erica Gaddis <egaddis@utah.gov> wrote:

This email is just to establish the list of people that should be included in any further communication about the San Juan River mine water pulse. The list includes representatives from the Division of Water Quality, Division of Drinking Water, DEQ's District Engineer, Utah Department of Health, San Juan County Health Department, and BLM. If there are additional contacts that need to be included, please add them and resend this email.

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